



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District®

Media Advisory

Release No: COB07-14

Contact: Dawn Kovarik
618-724-2493

For Release: **IMMEDIATE** – June 13, 2007

Rend Lake Project Office, 12220 Rend City Road, Benton, IL 62812

CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE REND LAKE AS ONE OF ILLINOIS' 7 WONDERS

Illinois Senate Files Resolution to Declare June 18 'Rend Lake Day'

Whittington, Illinois – A ceremony honoring the selection of Rend Lake as one of the Seven Wonders of Illinois will be held Monday, June 18 at 5:00 p.m. at the Rend Lake Resort & Conference Center located in Wayne Fitzgerald State Park in Whittington, Illinois. Elected representatives, Rend Lake partners and stakeholders, and state and Federal officials including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff will gather to celebrate Rend Lake's designation as a superior example of the best of Illinois.

On April 30 Governor Rod R. Blagojevich and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism announced that Rend Lake had been chosen by consumers as one of "The Seven Wonders of Illinois" in a contest launched at the 2007 Illinois Governor's Conference on Tourism.

State Senator Gary Forby filed a Resolution in the Illinois Senate making June 18, 2007 "Rend Lake Day" in the State of Illinois. In addition to other remarks, making the keynote speech will be retired U.S. Congressman Kenneth J. Gray, who was instrumental in championing and securing the authorization for funds for the construction of Rend Lake.

Rend Lake, located in Franklin and Jefferson counties, is the second largest man-made lake in Illinois. The 18,900-acre lake, completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1971, is about 13 miles long and three miles wide with 162 miles of shoreline. It is a multi-purpose project designed to enhance the region's quality of life. The lake supplies over 15 million gallons of water per day to 300,000 persons in over 60 communities.

- MORE -

The lake draws more than three million visitors a year, according to Lake Operations Manager Jim Lynch. Visitors can enjoy nearly 20,000 acres of public land, nearly 800 campsites, hiking and biking trails, 27 boat ramps, beaches, numerous lakeside picnic facilities, as well as hunting and fishing opportunities.

Summary:

- Who:** Elected representatives, Rend Lake partners and stakeholders and state and Federal officials, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
- What:** Celebration of Rend Lake as one of the 7 Wonders of Illinois
- When:** 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 18, 2007 (Reception to follow)
- Where:** Rend Lake Resort & Conference Center, 11712 E. Windy Ln, Whittington, IL.
- Directions:** Take I-57 to the exit 77 (Sesser) go west on Rt. 154 to the entrance to Wayne Fitzgerald State Park.
Take main park road to the resort located on the south side of road.
Ceremony will be held on the lawn at the Rend Lake Resort.

In case of inclement weather ceremony will be moved to the resort's Conference Center. The reception will be held in the Resort's Great Room.

-END-